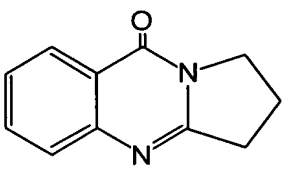
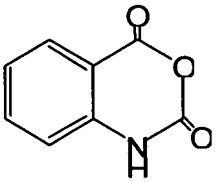
In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for ~~the production of~~ producing a compound or reaction product of the following formula (I)



(I)



(II)

[[by]] comprising the steps of converting a compound of formula (II) with 2-pyrrolidone, ~~characterized in that an excess of~~ wherein 2-pyrrolidone is used[[,]] in excess relative to said compound (II)[[,]] to form a reaction mixture.

2. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that in a subsequent~~ further comprising the step of crystallizing said [[the]] reaction product (I) to isolate said reaction product (I) ~~is isolated~~ directly from [[the]] said reaction mixture ~~by crystallisation~~.

3. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein said process comprises using 2-pyrrolidone in an amount of ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ 1.5 to 5 mol~~, preferably 2 to 4 mol, especially preferably 2.5 to 3.5 mol, of 2-pyrrolidone are used, each value~~ relative to the amount of compound (II).

4. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, wherein said process comprises performing said conversion ~~is performed~~ at a temperature of 50 to 200 °C.

5. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said process comprises the step ~~temperature~~ of ~~the reaction mixture is~~ initially ~~heated~~ heating said reaction mixture to an initial temperature of 70 to 130 °C~~, preferably to 80 to 120 °C,~~ and subsequently heating said reaction mixture to a subsequent temperature of 140 to 200 °C~~, preferably 150 to 190 °C~~.

6. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said process comprises the step of maintaining said initial temperature ~~is maintained~~ for a period of 0.5 to 2 hours ~~h, preferably 1 to 1.5 h,~~ and maintaining [[the]] said subsequent temperature ~~is maintained~~ for a period of 1 to 8 hours ~~h, preferably from 2 to 5 h~~.

7. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that the~~ further comprising the steps of:

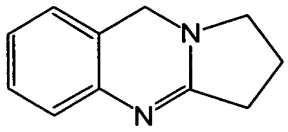
cooling said reaction mixture;

seeding said reaction mixture, [[is]] after cooling~~, seeded~~ with seed crystals of compound (I)[[,]]; and ~~is maintained~~

maintaining said reaction mixture seeded with said seed crystals at room temperature~~, preferably at least 25 °C,~~ for a period of 24 [[h]] hours to 7 days~~, preferably 50 to 100 h,~~ to enable crystallisation.

8. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said crystallisation is carried through at a temperature of 30 to 70 °C, ~~preferably at 40 to 60 °C~~.

9. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the production of a compound of the following formula (III), comprising the following steps:



(III)

(A) Preparing said compound (I) according to a process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 8]];

(B) performing a reduction reaction~~, giving~~ to provide said compound (III) in salt form; and

(C) liberating compound (III) from the salt.

10. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said process comprises using a reaction product isolated by crystallisation according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8 is used~~ as compound (I).

11. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 9, comprising the step of performing said ~~or 10, characterized in that the~~ reduction reaction (step B) ~~is performed~~ in the presence of zinc and acid.

12. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising the step of initially dissolving said compound (I)~~, preferably in crystallised form, is initially dissolved~~ in glacial acetic acid and [[that]] subsequently adding zinc and hydrochloric acid ~~are added~~ to said compound (I) dissolved in glacial acetic acid.

13. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that the~~ comprising the step of performing said reduction reaction ~~is performed~~ in the

presence of aqueous sulfuric acid and zinc dust.

14. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 9, ~~to 13, characterized in that~~ further comprising the step of, subsequent to step (B), isolating said compound (III) ~~is isolated~~ as a salt by crystallisation from [[the]] said reaction mixture.

15. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 9, further comprising the step of, ~~to 14, characterized in that~~ in step (C), adding a base to said reaction mixture to liberate said [[the]] compound (III) ~~is liberated~~ from the salt ~~by addition of a base, preferably by addition of NaOH~~.

16. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein step (C) is carried through under heating, and further comprising the step of obtaining ~~with the~~ said compound (III), which is liberated from the salt, ~~being obtained~~ in molten form.

17. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that the~~ further comprising the step of cooling down said compound (III) present in molten form by freezing ~~is cooled down~~ and, after freezing, ~~is crystallised~~ crystallizing said compound (III) from an aqueous alkaline solution.

18. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the production of a compound (III), starting from a salt of said compound (III), ~~characterized in that~~ comprising the step of liberating and isolating said compound (III) ~~is liberated and isolated~~ from the salt as a free base in molten form.

19. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that the~~ further comprising the step of cooling down said compound (III) present in molten form to freezing ~~is cooled down~~ and~~, after freezing, is crystallised~~ subsequently crystallizing said compound (III) from an aqueous alkaline solution.

20. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process for the production of a compound of formula (III) according to claim 18, further comprising the ~~as indicated, characterized in that it contains a~~ step of separating said ~~wherein this~~ compound (III) ~~is separated~~ from the reaction mixture in liquid form.

21. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process for the production of a compound of formula (III) ~~as indicated,~~ according to claim 20, further comprising ~~characterized in that said process comprises~~ the following steps:

- reducing ~~the aforementioned~~ said compound (I) to compound (III)~~, which gives~~ to provide said compound (III) in salt form; and

- adding a base to said compound (III) to liberate said~~, whereby~~ compound (III) ~~is liberated~~ from the salt and to separate said compound (III) ~~separates~~ out in liquid form.

22. (currently amended) Use of a compound of formula (I), produced according to a process according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 9]], for ~~the production of~~ producing a compound of formula (III) in a form selected from the group consisting of [[as]] a free base ~~or in the form of~~ and a salt.

23. (new) The process according to claim 3, wherein said process comprises using 2-pyrrolidone in an amount of 2 to 4 mol relative to the amount of compound (II).

24. (new) The process according to claim 23, wherein said process comprises using 2-pyrrolidone in an amount of 2.5 to 3.5 mol relative to the amount of compound (II).

25. (new) The process according to claim 5, wherein said process comprises the step of initially heating said reaction mixture to an initial temperature of 80 to 120 °C and subsequently heating said reaction mixture to a subsequent temperature of 150 to 190 °C.

26. (new) The process according to claim 6, wherein said process comprises the step of maintaining said initial temperature for a period of 1 to 1.5 hours and maintaining said subsequent temperature for a period of 2 to 5 hours.

27. (new) The process according to claim 7, comprising the step of maintaining said reaction mixture seeded with said seed crystals at a temperature of at least 25 °C for a period of 50 to 100 hours to enable crystallisation.

28. (new) The process according to claim 8, wherein said crystallisation is carried through at a temperature of 40 to 60 °C.

29. (new) The process according to claim 15, wherein said base is NaOH.

30. (new) Use of a compound of formula (I), produced according to a process according to claim 9, for producing a compound of formula (III) in a form selected from the group consisting of a free base and a salt.